(c) Main reason for shortfall in hydro generation has been low rainfall, thereby resulting in reduced inflows from the catchments of hydro stations.

(d) Some states are expected to have shortfall in hydro generation which is likely to be compensated by additional thermal generation.

Nuclear power generation by Reliance and NTPC

1545. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Reliance and NTPC propose to go for Nuclear generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this will help to tide over power shortage in the country and provide power at affordable rates?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) In so far as the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is concerned, its Corporate Plan (2002-2017) envisages that during the 12th Plan period, it might consider the option of adding about 2000 MW of nuclear capacity. In this regard, NTPC has recently taken up the matter with Department of Atomic Energy. The issue is at a very nascent stage and no specific proposal has been made by NTPC. As regard Reliance (M/s. Reliance Energy Ltd.), no specific proposal to set up a nuclear power generating station has been received from Reliance, either by Ministry of Power or by the Department of Atomic Energy.

Permission to NTPC to raise funds from open market borrowings

1546. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI BALWANT *alias* BALAPTE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to allow the NTPC to raise funds